

FOR WIRE TRANSMISSION 8:30 A.M. ET, Tuesday, July 15, 2003

## ADVANCE MONTHLY SALES FOR RETAIL AND FOOD SERVICES JUNE 2003

The Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that advance estimates of U.S. retail and food services sales for June, adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes, were \$310.4 billion, an increase of 0.5 percent ( $\pm 0.9\%$ ) from the previous month and up 4.2 percent ( $\pm 1.0\%$ ) from June 2002. Total sales for the April through June 2003 period were up 4.3 percent ( $\pm 0.5\%$ ) from the same period a year ago. The April to May 2003 percent change was revised from +0.1 percent ( $\pm 0.9\%$ ) to 0.0 percent ( $\pm 0.3\%$ ).

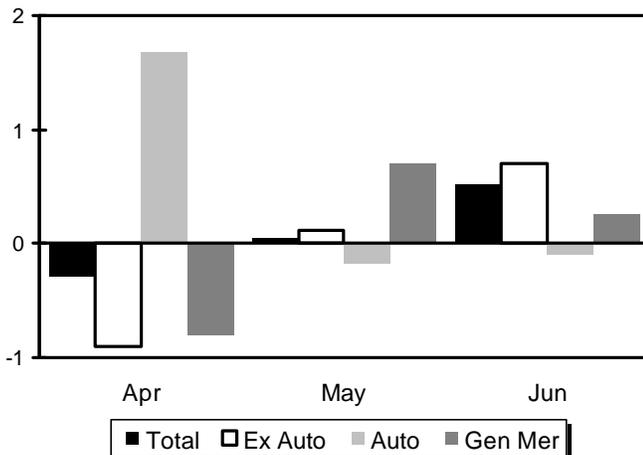
Retail trade sales were up 0.6 percent ( $\pm 0.9\%$ ) from May and were 4.1 percent ( $\pm 1.0\%$ ) above last year. Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers were up 6.1 percent ( $\pm 2.2\%$ ) from June 2002 and sales for gasoline stations were up 5.8 percent ( $\pm 2.3\%$ ) from last year.

*The advance estimates are based on a subsample of the Bureau's full retail and food services sample. A stratified random sampling method is used to select approximately 5,000 retail and food services firms whose sales are then weighted and benchmarked to represent the complete universe of over three million retail and food services firms. Responding firms account for approximately 65% of the MARTS dollar volume estimate. For an explanation of the measures of sampling variability included in this report, please see the Reliability of Estimates section on the last page of this publication.*

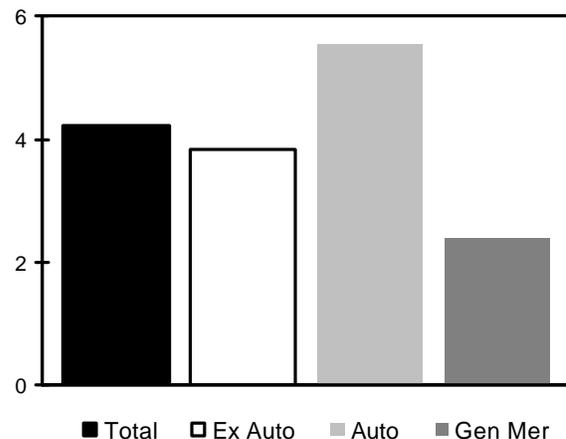
### Percent Change in Retail and Food Services Sales

(Data adjusted for seasonal, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)

From Previous Month



From Previous Year



The Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services for July is scheduled to be released August 13, 2003 at 8:30 a.m.

Address inquiries concerning this report to Scott Scheleur, Service Sector Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233. Telephone: 301-763-2713.

This report is available the day of issue through the Department of Commerce's online Economic Bulletin Board. For information call 202-482-1986. The data are also available on the Internet - <http://www.census.gov/retail>.

**Table 1. Estimated Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business**

(In Millions of Dollars and Annual Percent Change)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Not Adjusted							Adjusted <sup>1</sup>				
		6 Month Total		2003			2002		2003			2002	
		2003	% Chg. 2002	June <sup>2</sup> (a)	May (p)	Apr. (r)	June	May	June <sup>2</sup> (a)	May (p)	Apr. (r)	June (r)	May (r)
	<b>Retail &amp; food services,</b>												
	<b>total</b> .....	1,802,447	4.6	313,774	326,784	307,551	299,179	310,806	310,417	308,814	308,675	297,813	293,870
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ...	1,356,050	4.2	234,463	244,537	230,101	225,415	236,081	235,995	234,328	234,054	227,289	226,469
	Retail .....	1,629,782	4.6	283,634	295,224	278,739	270,324	281,699	280,955	279,291	279,601	269,880	266,228
	<b>GAFO<sup>3</sup></b> .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	78,953	73,247	73,837	76,542	(*)	79,601	78,868	78,049	77,352
441	<b>Motor vehicle &amp; parts dealers</b> .....	446,397	5.9	79,311	82,247	77,450	73,764	74,725	74,422	74,486	74,621	70,524	67,401
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	408,574	6.2	72,698	75,499	70,829	67,288	68,114	68,069	68,078	68,236	64,267	61,199
44111	New car dealers .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	62,839	58,766	57,333	57,561	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4413	Auto parts, acc. & tire stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	6,748	6,621	6,476	6,611	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
442	<b>Furniture &amp; home furn. stores</b> .....	46,072	2.2	7,926	8,361	7,632	7,556	8,030	8,248	8,205	8,111	7,854	7,919
4421	Furniture stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,557	4,150	4,255	4,502	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4422	Home furnishings stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,804	3,482	3,301	3,528	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
443	<b>Electronics &amp; appliance stores</b> .....	41,632	0.7	7,150	7,172	6,507	7,015	6,953	7,678	7,688	7,563	7,549	7,499
44311, 13	Appl., T.V. & camera.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	5,201	4,577	5,000	4,995	(*)	5,598	5,488	5,441	5,423
44312	Computer & software stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,971	1,930	2,015	1,958	(*)	2,090	2,075	2,108	2,076
444	<b>Building material &amp; garden eq. &amp; supplies dealers</b> .....	155,976	3.9	30,586	31,338	29,443	28,007	30,609	26,602	25,938	25,982	25,064	25,163
4441	Building mat. & sup. dealers .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	25,285	23,993	23,513	25,222	(*)	22,556	22,699	21,913	22,183
445	<b>Food &amp; beverage stores</b> .....	246,680	2.8	41,495	43,845	41,081	40,844	42,554	42,102	41,872	41,979	40,868	40,842
4451	Grocery stores .....	223,708	2.7	37,420	39,514	37,145	36,840	38,419	37,990	37,740	37,864	36,877	36,870
4453	Beer, wine & liquor stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	2,750	2,486	2,603	2,682	(*)	2,652	2,665	2,619	2,609
446	<b>Health &amp; personal care stores</b> .....	92,756	4.9	15,297	16,085	15,622	14,454	15,448	15,738	15,617	15,591	14,978	14,940
44611	Pharmacies & drug stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	13,781	13,335	12,250	13,108	(*)	13,393	13,335	12,721	12,689
447	<b>Gasoline stations</b> .....	129,450	12.5	22,093	22,294	21,854	20,872	21,440	21,101	20,836	21,745	19,935	20,037
448	<b>Clothing &amp; clothing accessories stores</b> .....	77,996	1.8	13,576	14,774	13,682	13,196	14,156	14,789	14,605	14,379	14,370	14,071
44811	Men's clothing stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	828	773	795	813	(*)	822	813	832	815
44812	Women's clothing stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,074	2,975	2,739	3,028	(*)	2,865	2,823	2,886	2,814
44814	Family clothing stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	4,995	4,664	4,576	4,609	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4482	Shoe stores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	1,884	1,857	1,781	1,903	(*)	1,769	1,752	1,819	1,809
451	<b>Sporting goods, hobby, book &amp; music stores</b> .....	35,669	-1.2	6,246	6,009	5,851	6,160	6,168	6,894	6,692	6,756	6,725	6,861
452	<b>General merchandise stores</b> .....	215,512	3.3	37,772	39,424	36,589	37,038	38,080	39,076	38,974	38,703	38,170	37,657
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	97,027	-5.5	16,913	17,876	16,669	17,866	18,764	18,054	18,013	17,885	19,007	18,821
4521	Department stores (incl. L.D.) <sup>4</sup> .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	18,186	16,960	18,174	19,373	(*)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
4529	Other general merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	21,548	19,920	19,172	19,316	(*)	20,961	20,818	19,163	18,836
45291	Warehouse clubs & superstores .....	(*)	(*)	(*)	18,216	16,761	16,226	16,281	(*)	17,720	17,588	16,129	15,884
45299	All oth. gen. merch. stores.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	3,332	3,159	2,946	3,035	(*)	3,241	3,230	3,034	2,952
453	<b>Miscellaneous store retailers</b> .....	49,757	-0.4	8,388	9,200	8,163	8,436	9,107	8,673	8,783	8,634	8,810	8,664
454	<b>Nonstore retailers</b> .....	91,885	6.9	13,794	14,475	14,865	12,982	14,429	15,632	15,595	15,537	15,033	15,174
4541	Elect. shopping & m/o houses ....	(*)	(*)	(*)	9,419	9,574	8,547	9,297	(*)	10,106	10,057	9,625	9,776
722	<b>Food services &amp; drinking places</b> ...	172,665	5.0	30,140	31,560	28,812	28,855	29,107	29,462	29,523	29,074	27,933	27,642

(\*) Advance estimates are not available from the subsample panel for these business classifications.

(NA) Not available. (a) Advance estimates. (p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

Note: Totals include data for business classifications not shown separately.

- Data are concurrently adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes. Concurrent seasonal adjustment uses all available unadjusted estimates as input to the X-12-ARIMA program and the factors derived from the program are used in calculating all seasonally adjusted data shown in this publication. Factors and explanatory material are released on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/mrts/www/mrts.html>.
- Advance estimates are based on early reporting by a small subsample of the full survey panel. All other estimates are based on the full sample.
- GAFO represents stores which specialize in department store types of merchandise (furniture & home furnishings (442), electronics & appliances(443), clothing & accessories(448), sporting goods, hobby, book, music (451), general merchandise(452), office supplies, stationery, and gift stores(4532)).
- Includes data for leased departments operated within department stores. Data for this line not included in broader kind-of-business totals.

**Table 2. Percent Change in Estimated Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services, by Kind of Business**

(Adjusted for seasonal variations, holiday, and trading-day differences, but not for price changes)

NAICS code	Kind of Business	Percent Change <sup>1</sup>					
		June 2003 Advance from --		May 2003 Preliminary from --		Apr. 2003 through June 2003 from --	
		May 2003 (p)	Jun. 2002 (r)	Apr. 2003 (r)	May 2002 (r)	Jan. 2003 through Mar. 2003	Apr. 2002 through Jun. 2002
	<b>Retail &amp; food services, total .....</b>	0.5	4.2	0.0	5.1	0.9	4.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) .....	0.7	3.8	0.1	3.5	0.2	3.3
	Retail .....	0.6	4.1	-0.1	4.9	0.8	4.2
441	<b>Motor vehicle &amp; parts dealers .....</b>	-0.1	5.5	-0.2	10.5	3.3	7.6
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	0.0	5.9	-0.2	11.2	3.6	8.1
442	<b>Furniture &amp; home furn. stores .....</b>	0.5	5.0	1.2	3.6	3.8	3.8
443	<b>Electronics &amp; appliance stores .....</b>	-0.1	1.7	1.7	2.5	2.3	2.0
444	<b>Building material &amp; garden eq. &amp; supplies dealers.....</b>	2.6	6.1	-0.2	3.1	3.3	3.8
445	<b>Food &amp; beverage stores.....</b>	0.5	3.0	-0.3	2.5	0.1	2.9
4451	Grocery stores .....	0.7	3.0	-0.3	2.4	-0.1	2.8
446	<b>Health &amp; personal care stores .....</b>	0.8	5.1	0.2	4.5	1.0	4.3
447	<b>Gasoline stations .....</b>	1.3	5.8	-4.2	4.0	-6.5	5.6
448	<b>Clothing &amp; clothing accessories stores .....</b>	1.3	2.9	1.6	3.8	0.5	1.9
451	<b>Sporting goods, hobby, book &amp; music stores.....</b>	3.0	2.5	-0.9	-2.5	0.6	0.1
452	<b>General merchandise stores.....</b>	0.3	2.4	0.7	3.5	0.2	2.3
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.2	-5.0	0.7	-4.3	-1.0	-5.8
453	<b>Miscellaneous store retailers .....</b>	-1.3	-1.6	1.7	1.4	0.8	-0.4
454	<b>Nonstore retailers .....</b>	0.2	4.0	0.4	2.8	-1.9	3.5
722	<b>Food services &amp; drinking places ....</b>	-0.2	5.5	1.5	6.8	1.7	5.6

(p) Preliminary. (r) Revised.

(1) Percent change rounded to nearest tenth.

Official Business

Penalty for Private Use, \$300

### Source of Data and Reliability of Estimates

**Source of Data:** The Census Bureau conducts the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey each month to provide an early indication of sales of retail and food service companies. The Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey is a voluntary survey of a sub-sample of about 5,000 firms selected from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Firms responding to this survey account for approximately 65% of the dollar volume estimate.

**Reliability of Estimates:** The reliability of the estimates is a function of sampling and nonsampling errors. The margin of sampling error, as included on page 1, gives a range about the estimate which is a 90% confidence

interval. If, for example, the trend estimate is +1.2% and the standard error is 0.9%, then the margin of sampling error is  $\pm 1.65 \times 0.9\%$  or  $\pm 1.5\%$ , and the 90% confidence interval is -0.3% to +2.7%. If the interval contains 0, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. For monthly level, the coefficient of variation (CV) is given. The resulting confidence interval is the estimated value  $\pm 1.65 \times CV \times$  (the estimated value). Estimates of sampling variability are given in Table 3. Nonsampling error, on the other hand, can occur because of nonresponse, insufficient coverage of the universe of retail businesses, and response errors. Although not directly measured, precautionary steps are taken to minimize nonsampling error. Additional survey information is available at <http://www.census.gov/retail>.

**Table 3. Measures of Variability of and Revision to Advance Estimates for Level and Trend**

NAICS Code	Kind of Business	Level of sales: Median CV <sup>(2)</sup> for Current Mo. (%)	Trend (percent change): Median standard error <sup>(2)</sup> for			Revision for month- to-month change <sup>(1)</sup>	
			Current Mo. to Previous Mo.	Current Qtr. to Previous Qtr.	Current Mo. to Current Mo. Last Yr.	Average revision	Median absolute revision
	<b>Retail &amp; food services,</b>						
	total .....	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3
	Total (excl. motor vehicle & parts) ..	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.1
	<b>Retail .....</b>	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.3
441	<b>Motor vehicle &amp; parts dealers .....</b>	2.0	1.6	0.7	1.9	0.7	1.1
4411, 4412	Auto & other motor veh. dealers ..	2.1	1.7	0.8	2.0	0.8	1.3
442	<b>Furniture &amp; home furn. stores.....</b>	3.8	1.9	1.1	2.6	0.2	0.9
443	<b>Electronics &amp; appliance stores .....</b>	1.6	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.5
444	<b>Building material &amp; garden eq. &amp;...</b>						
	supplies dealers.....	1.8	1.1	0.7	1.3	0.0	0.7
445	<b>Food &amp; beverage stores.....</b>	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2
4451	Grocery stores .....	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2
446	<b>Health &amp; personal care stores .....</b>	2.8	0.6	0.4	1.3	-0.1	0.2
447	<b>Gasoline stations .....</b>	1.9	0.7	0.6	1.4	0.4	0.4
448	<b>Clothing &amp; clothing accessories</b>						
	stores .....	1.6	0.7	0.5	1.1	0.7	0.8
451	<b>Sporting goods, hobby, book &amp;</b>						
	music stores.....	2.4	1.8	1.5	2.1	-0.2	0.5
452	<b>General merchandise stores.....</b>	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.2
4521	Department stores (ex. L.D.).....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.3	0.3
453	<b>Miscellaneous store retailers .....</b>	2.9	2.7	1.5	3.2	0.3	0.6
454	<b>Nonstore retailers .....</b>	5.6	2.8	1.1	3.3	-0.3	0.7
722	<b>Food services &amp; drinking places ..</b>	2.1	1.0	0.9	1.8	0.1	0.7



(1) These columns measure the difference between the estimates of trend for the same pair of data months, i.e. the difference between the Advance/Preliminary ratio and the Preliminary/Final ratio estimates. Revisions are based on estimates from the 12 most recent months.

(2) Medians are based on estimates from the 12 most recent months.